

Bureau of Land Management Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

Planning Newsletter #4 October 2007

BLM

Available for Public Comment October 2007!

Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The BLM Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP/Draft EIS) will be released for public review and comment. Five alternatives were developed and analyzed and we have completed Chapter 1: Purpose and Need, Chapter 2: Alternatives, Chapter 3: Affected Environment, Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences, Chapter 5: References, and Appendices A through K.

To reach this point, public scoping was completed in 2002 and 2003. Five primary issues surfaced during scoping and were the focus of plan analysis: Cultural Resources, Grazing Administration, Fluid Minerals, Recreation, and Transportation. The Monument Advisory Committee met 28 times; developed Goals, Objectives, and Best Management Practices; and reviewed the Range of Alternatives. In addition, an Analysis of the Management Situation and a Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario for Fluid Minerals were completed.

An extensive review process included the BLM Colorado State Office, BLM Washington Office, BLM San Juan Field Office (Monticello), National Park Service (Hovenweep National Monument), USFS-BLM San Juan Public Lands Center, the Colorado Historical Society, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

It is important to remember the purposes of the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Draft RMP are to:

- ensure compliance with Presidential Proclamation 7317 that established the Monument;
- protect the scientific and historic objects, as well as other resources, identified in the Proclamation;
- establish guidance, objectives, policies, and direction for managing the Monument; and
- address issues relating to management of the Monument as identified through agency, interagency, and public scoping efforts.

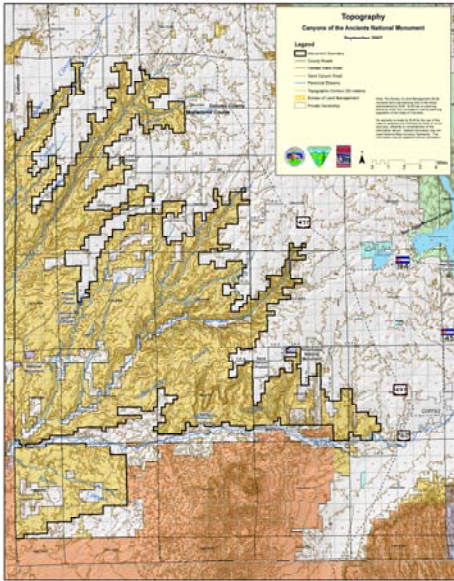
The Proclamation states:

Containing the highest known density of archaeological sites in the Nation... the Monument holds evidence of cultures and traditions spanning thousands of years...natural resources and spectacular landforms...rugged and dissected geology...and wildlife species...I proclaim for the purpose of protecting the objects identified above...Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

Therefore the Draft RMP emphasizes protection of the objects of the Monument, including cultural landscapes, prehistoric and historic cultural resources, wildlife, geological, and scenic resources. The Draft RMP objective is to develop an integrated plan that guides future land use decisions and project-specific analyses in the Monument.



The Planning Area



Canyons of the Ancients National Monument is administered by the Bureau of Land Management and was established to protect cultural and natural resources on a landscape scale. The Monument covers approximately 165,000 acres of high desert in the southwestern corner of Colorado. It is about 50 miles west of Durango, 10 miles west of Cortez, and 12 miles west of Mesa Verde National Park in Dolores and Montezuma Counties. The Planning Area includes acquired inholdings, edgeholdings, and the Anasazi Heritage Center. The Monument contains the highest known density of cultural resource sites in the United States. It includes rich, well-preserved evidence of Native American culture, spectacular landforms, a wide variety of wildlife species, and unique recreation opportunities.

The Alternatives

The five alternatives described and analyzed in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS represent a reasonable range of potential future land uses for the Monument. The alternatives are constrained by the Presidential Proclamation and incorporate information received during the public scoping process. The five alternatives are:

Alternative I *No Action*

Continuation of current management as specified in the 1985 San Juan/San Miguel RMP Record of Decision (ROD) and Amendments, the 1986 Anasazi Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Management Plan, Department of the Interior and BLM Interim Management, and the Mail Trail Settlement Agreement.

Alternative II

Emphasizes landscape-scale cultural resource values, i.e., **communities, sites, and isolated finds** and includes tribal values, cultural resource protection, and natural resource protection and enhancement.

Alternative III

Emphasizes cultural resource site protection, i.e., **communities and sites**, and natural resource values, while **providing** for resource use and development.

Alternative IV

Emphasizes cultural resource site protection, i.e., **communities and sites**, and natural resource values, while **encouraging** resource use and development.

Alternative V *Preferred Alternative*

Emphasizes cultural resource values, i.e., **communities and sites**, and includes tribal values, cultural resource and natural resource protection and enhancement, while **providing** for resource use and development.

How to Access the Draft RMP/Draft EIS

The Draft RMP/Draft EIS will be posted on our website: <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/canm/>. CD copies will be made available to the public for personal use. In order to conserve natural resources, paper copies of the document are not being printed in bulk. Paper copies will be available for viewing during regular business hours at the following locations:



- Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (Anasazi Heritage Center), 27501 Highway 184, Dolores
- Dolores Public Lands Center, 29211 Highway 184, Dolores
- San Juan Public Lands Center, 15 Burnett Court, Durango
- Dolores Public Library, 420 Railroad Ave., Dolores
- Cortez Public Library, 202 N. Park, Cortez
- Mancos Public Library, 111 N. Main, Mancos
- Durango Public Library, 1188 E. 2nd Ave., Durango

How to Comment on the Draft RMP/Draft EIS

Public comments are an essential component of a successful planning process and useful RMP. Written comments on the Draft RMP/Draft EIS will be accepted for 90 days after the Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register. Comments received during this time will be fully evaluated and considered in the development of the Final RMP. Open house meetings on the Draft RMP/Draft EIS will be held in the Colorado towns of Denver, Cortez, and Durango (see page 6 for schedule). The purpose of the open house meetings is to give the public an opportunity to discuss and comment on the Draft RMP/Draft EIS. Comments may be submitted via the following methods:

Website: <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/canm/>

Fax: 970-882-7035

Mail: Monument Manager, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, (Anasazi Heritage Center)
27501 Hwy 184, Dolores, CO 81323

Although often misconstrued as a vote on the Preferred Alternative, the public comment process is most useful to the development of the Final RMP when comments specifically address aspects of the range of alternatives and/or the impact analysis. This allows BLM to integrate important information and viewpoints that strengthen all aspects of the Final RMP. Substantive comments often address one or more of the following:

- New scientific information or data that would have a bearing on the analysis;
- Errors in the analysis;
- Misinformation that could affect the outcome of the analysis;
- Requests for clarification; or
- A substantive new alternative with a mix of allocations that differs from those under any of the proposed alternatives.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (Anasazi Heritage Center), 27501 Hwy 184, Dolores, CO 81323, and will be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Comment Form

Public comments are an essential component of a successful planning process and useful Resource Management Plan. Written comments on the Draft RMP/Draft EIS will be accepted for 90 days after the Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register. Comments received during this time will be fully evaluated and considered in the development of the Final RMP.

Comments, including names of respondents, will be available for public review at the Bureau of Land Management, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (Anasazi Heritage Center), 27501 Hwy 184, Dolores, CO 81323 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., March 1 to November 1; 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., November 1 to March 1, except holidays.

All comments will be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While individuals may ask us to withhold personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, or individuals representing them, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Draft RMP/Draft EIS COMMENT FORM

Name(s):	_____
Organization:	_____
Address:	_____

Telephone:	_____
Email:	_____

Comments: _____

Monument Advisory Committee

The Monument Advisory Committee has played an invaluable role in the planning process. The Committee's Charter expired in the fall of 2006. All Committee member appointments, except the Dolores County representative, expired in late May 2007. The Committee's Charter



was renewed and nominations to reestablish the Advisory Committee were submitted in June 2007. We anticipate that it will take several months to appoint representatives to the Advisory Committee.

During this time, it is important to maintain the crucial role the Advisory Committee has played in ensuring public involvement and representation in the Monument planning process. Therefore, on July 20, 2007, the Southwest Resource Advisory Council (SWRAC) agreed to establish a Canyons of the

Ancients National Monument Subgroup. The Subgroup will continue the review function during the public comment period for the Draft RMP/Draft EIS. Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Subgroup members are:

NAME	CATEGORY OF INTEREST
Glenn (Kelly) Wilson	SWRAC Liaison
Gerald Koppenhafer	Montezuma County Commission
Cliff Bankston	Dolores County Commission
Carl Knight	Tribal (Ute Mountain Ute)
William Lipe	Cultural Resources-Regional
Mark Varien	Cultural Resources-Local
Chris Majors	Livestock Grazing Permittee
Robert Clayton	Fluid Mineral Development
Elizabeth Tozer	Private Landowner
Charles McAfee	Public-at-large
Howard Poe	Public-at-large
Al Heaton	Alternate: SWRAC Liaison, Grazing Permittee

Important Dates and Estimated Timeline for Completing the RMP/EIS

EVENT	DATE
Federal Register Notice of Intent	April 2002
Public Scoping Period	April 2002 to November 2003
Analysis of Management Situation and Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario	2005 and 2006
Alternative Formulation	2005 and 2006
Prepare Draft RMP/Draft EIS	2006 and 2007
Draft RMP/Draft EIS Available 90-Day Public Comment Period Begins	October 2007 when Notice Of Availability is published in the Federal Register
SWRAC and SWRAC Monument Subgroup briefing	Week of September 17, 2007
SWRAC Monument Subgroup meeting	October 19, 2007
Durango Open House; La Plata County Fairgrounds	November 13, 2007; 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Cortez Open House; Koko's Conference Center	November 14, 2007; 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Denver area Open House; Denver West Village Holiday Inn	November 15, 2007; 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Cooperating Agency and Interested Party briefings	Week of October 29, 2007
Content Analysis Report summarizing Draft RMP/Draft EIS comments	Spring 2008
Final RMP/EIS Complete	Spring 2008
Governor's (60 day) Consistency Review	Summer 2008
Record of Decision (ROD)	Fall 2008

Monument Planner Update

Heather Musclow was hired as the Monument Planner in July 2006. She comes with an extensive natural resource background, including a Bachelors Degree in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University and a Masters Degree in Biology from California Polytechnic University, Pomona. She has previously worked for several state agencies, private consulting firms, and the US Forest Service. Heather brings experience to the Canyons of the Ancients Monument planning process from leading numerous environmental analyses; landscape assessments; and collaborative planning efforts involving wildlife, watershed, range, fire, and recreation programs.

BLM
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National Monument
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